

Claims:

1. (currently amended) A process control system, comprising:

a processor unit ~~adapted to that~~ determines a payment figure from operations running in the process control system, the operations regarding the creation ~~or removal~~ of a process control function, the payment figure to be charged to a user ~~or regarding a user activity or regarding an execution of an automation function~~.

2. (currently amended) A ~~The~~ process control system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

the Internet;

a process control computer; and

a client computer connected to the process control computer via the Internet; ~~and~~

~~the Internet,~~ wherein at least a part of the operations ~~running in the process control system~~ run on the process control computer.

3. (currently amended) A ~~The~~ process control system according to Claim 2, further comprising:

at least one field device for automation of at least one system component, wherein at least a part of the operations ~~running in the process control system~~ run on the field device.

4. (currently amended) A ~~The~~ process control system according to Claim 2, wherein the process control computer comprises a Web server and the client computer comprises an Internet browser so that the client computer ~~can influence~~ influences the operations running in the process control computer via the Internet, wherein the operations ~~can also include operations by which initiate further operations are initiated in further components~~ a component of the process control system.

5. (previously presented) ~~A~~ The process control system according to Claim 4, wherein the further components~~component~~ comprises a field devices for monitoring and control of a further components of a technical system that are~~is~~ connected by radio communication and/or by a fixed link to the process control computer, wherein the further operations also comprise those operations that are executed in the field devices.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) ~~A~~ The process control system according to Claim 1, wherein the payment figure is a service fee to be paid by the user of the process control system to an Application Service Provider.

8.-13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) A method for determining a payment figure in a process control system, comprising:

~~providing a processor unit adapted to record~~
recording the creation and/or removal of a process control function by a processing unit
~~and an execution of an automation function; and~~
~~providing a device adapted to record a user activity; and~~
determining a payment figure to be charged to a user based on the creation of the process control function~~by the processor unit using recorded data of the preceding steps.~~

15. (new) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the creation of the process control function is undertaken by the user.

16. (new) The method according to Claim 15, further comprising providing a plurality of pre-specified functions, wherein the user selects at least one of the plurality of pre-specified functions which is used in the creation the process control function.

17. (new) The process control system according to Claim 14, wherein the payment figure is further based on a removal of the created process control function.

18. (new) The process control system according to Claim 17, wherein the payment figure is further based on an execution of an automation function.

19. (new) The process control system according to Claim 14, wherein the operations further regarding an execution of an automation function.

20. (new) The process control system according to Claim 1, wherein the creation of the process control function is undertaken by the user.

21. (new) The process control system according to Claim 20, further comprising a plurality of pre-specified functions, wherein the user selects at least one of the plurality of pre-specified functions in order to create the process control function.

22. (new) The process control system according to Claim 21, wherein the user downloads at least one of the plurality of pre-specified functions in order to create the process control function.

23. (new) The process control system according to Claim 1, wherein the operations further regarding a removal of the created process control function.

24. (new) The process control system according to Claim 23, wherein the operations further regarding an execution of an automation function.

25. (new) The process control system according to Claim 1, wherein the operations further regarding an execution of an automation function.